

February 2005

NORTHERN COMMAND

SAFESTAT REPORT

Nevada Highway Patrol

Major Richard Varner

Overview

Mild weather conditions in the Northern Command during the month of February contributed to an unusually high decrease in the number of accidents. January's extreme snow and adverse weather resulted in a very high number of accidents. The January 2005 to February 2005 accident rate decreased by 44.9%!

Fewer accidents allowed the Troopers more time for on-view patrol activities. Statistics in virtually every area of enforcement were up! The percentage of increase in total violations from January 2005 to February 2005 was 22.1%. Sergeants continue to track individual Troopers activity through the SAFESTAT process which has brought about higher levels of individual accountability.

Road construction continues to plague Northern Command and more specifically Reno urban traffic operations, with major work on the IR80/IR580 junction as well as the Sparks corridor area. Recent construction zone temporary lane changes have created a significant traffic congestion problem on IR580 from the IR80 junction to Glendale. This is a very recent change in the traffic pattern; however, we are already experiencing increases in accidents in this area. We will continue our directed enforcement efforts in the area, and have made contact with NDOT on possibly remedies to the traffic problems. NHP remains committed implementing proactive activities to reduce accidents and save lives.

Manpower shortages continue to plague the Northern Command with Troopers assigned to the Training Division to conduct training as well as number of Troopers on 4800 extended leave time. There was also an outbreak of flu-like symptoms that contributed to employees using an above average amount of sick leave hours.

Despite the issues with continued road construction as well as manpower shortages, Northern Command Troopers really stepped up their enforcement efforts for the last month. While weather was a significant factor in the January 05 to February 05 reduction of accidents, one can not discount the efforts of the Northern Command Troopers in contributing to the reduction of accidents between the 2004 and 2005 totals for the month of February. Accidents were down 16.3% from 344 in February 2004 to 288 in February 2005.

Troopers continued to present the Department of Public Safety in an outstanding manner through the "Trooper Talk" radio show as well as the outstanding participation in the "Tip-a-Cop" program to benefit the Special Olympics. The NHP Honor Guard will be participating in the "Cops-n-Donuts" event to be held April 1st through 3rd at the Reno Krispy Kreme donut shop, another program to benefit the Special Olympics.

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CRASH ANALYSIS AND OVERVIEW

	February 2005		February 2004	% Change		January 2005	% Change
Total Crashes	288		344	-16.3%		523	-44.9%
Property Crashes [including commercial vehicles]	200		245	-18.4%		377	-46.9%
Injury Crashes [including commercial vehicles]	86		95	-9.5%		144	-40.3%
Fatal Crashes [including commercial vehicles]	2		4	-50.0%		2	0.0%
DUI Crashes [DUI charged]	17		12	41.7%		21	-19.0%
Total persons killed in fatal crashes	2		5	-60.0%		2	0.0%
Total drivers killed without seatbelts	1		2	-50.0%		0	100.0%
Total passengers killed without seatbelts	0		1	-100.0%		1	-100.0%
Total drivers killed with seatbelts	0		1	-100.0%		0	0.0%
Total passengers killed with seatbelts	0		0	0.0%		0	0.0%
Total persons killed - seatbelts not applicable	1		1	0.0%		1	0.0%
Total number of commercial vehicle crashes	15		12	25.0%		24	-37.5%
Property crashes involving commercial vehicles	14		10	40.0%		21	-33.3%
Injury crashes involving commercial vehicle	1		2	-50.0%		3	-66.7%
Fatal crashes involving commercial vehicle	0		0	0.0%		0	0.0%

Percentage of fatal crashes to total crashes 0.7%

Percentage of DUI crashes to total crashes 5.9%

Percentage of persons killed *without* seatbelts to total persons killed 100%

Percentage of commercial vehicle crashes to total crashes 5.2%

The month of February brought a significant drop in crashes occurring in the Northern Command. This reduction is due to the improved weather pattern in the Northern Command area. The January weather was very poor and was a major contributing factor in a number of crashes, while February's weather was mild reducing dramatically the weather related crashes.

Of important note though is the reduction of crashes when compared to February of last year, the Northern Command had an impressive drop in crash rates.

FIELD ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITY

[Analysis and review of current reporting period, versus same period in previous fiscal year, versus previous reporting period]

	February 2005	February 2004	% Change	January 2005	% Change
DUI arrests from crashes **	17	12	41.7%	21	-19.0%
DUI arrests <i>prior</i> to crashes **	93	68	36.8%	70	32.9%
Other Arrests	486	367	32.4%	338	43.8%
Total persons arrested (DUI included) **	209	153	36.6%	166	25.9%
Speed violations	1828	1883	-2.9%	1092	67.4%
Hazardous moving violations	647	643	0.6%	736	-12.1%
Occupant restraint violations *	403	378	6.6%	328	22.9%
Total violations [above violations included]	5258	5021	4.7%	4283	22.8%
Commercial Enforcement					
Hazardous moving violations - citations/arrests	16	12	33.3%	20	-20.0%
Other traffic violations - citations/arrests	26	18	44.4%	26	0.0%
Total safety inspections [level 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6]	488	557	-12.4%	257	89.9%
Terminal inspections [level 5] CR only	0	6	0.00%	4	-400.0%
Total safety violations -- citation	147	227	-35.2%	64	129.7%
Total safety violations -- repair order	1349	1169	15.4%	537	151.2%
Total vehicles placed "Out of Service"	149	34	338.2%	22	577.3%
Total drivers placed "Out of Service"	120	3	3900.0%	14	757.1%
Total school buses inspected	95	88	8.0%	13	630.8%
Total school buses placed "Out of Service"	25	28	-10.7%	13	92.3%
Total trucks weighed	155	83	86.7%	230	-32.6%
Total overweight citations	18	28	-35.7%	5	260.0%
Total dyed fuel inspections	409	457	-10.5%	180	127.2%
Total dyed fuel citations	0	3	-300.0%	0	0.0%

* Seat belt and child restraint

** Commercial Enforcement Activity Included

As discussed in the Crash Analysis section the improved weather had a dramatic effect on the proactive enforcement activity both in the numbers and what category the enforcement was in. As can be seen above the number of "Speed Violation" citations raised sharply with the good weather. The road conditions no longer forced traffic to travel slower thus increasing the speeds on the roadways again.

Conversely the number of "Hazardous Moving Violations" dropped. This is due to the reduction in driving violations committed by drivers on roads that were in poor condition due to the weather. Violations such as "Driving with Due Care" and "Speed too Fast for Conditions" were reduced with the dry clear roads.

Overall the "Total Violations" increased dramatically this month with the improved weather. This is caused by factors such as; the decrease in "Motorist Assist" type calls on the snowy-icy roadways and the ability of the officers to have proactive patrolling in good weather.

(Continued)

Two categories of activity that show a good trend are the "DUI arrests from crashes" and "DUI arrests prior to crashes". As can be seen the number of arrests prior to crashes has risen and the number of arrests from DUI drivers being involved in crashes has dropped. This shows that proactive patrolling and quick reaction to the drunk driver before they have the opportunity to be involved in a crash is working well.

COMMERCIAL ENFORCEMENT

- In February, the Commercial Section of the Northern Command continued to strive in order to meet all of the Federal Goals, established by the CVSP (Commercial Vehicle Safety Plan) for this fiscal year.
- The Northern Command, Commercial Section nearly met the goal achievement as set by the CVSP. This increase in activity can be attributed to the better weather conditions, reduced training needs and the reduction of the use of sick leave that occurred during the month.
- Commercial Enforcement scheduled a total of three (3) check-sites for February, but was only able to conduct two (2) check-sites. The cancelled check-site was due to dense fog.
- The PrePass automated commercial vehicle permit identification system was set up only once this month due to the weather.
- Northern Command Commercial Personnel expended a total of 28.78 hours assisting the traffic section with traffic control and accident investigation. The section assisted traffic units at 19 other collisions. Of those accidents in which Commercial assisted on, three (3) involved commercial motor vehicles. While assisting traffic, the Commercial Troopers were still able to conduct a total of 488 safety inspections.
- The total number of citations and MRO's issued increased this month over last month and this increase in activity can be attributed to the weather. Commercial Enforcement Troopers issued 16 Hazardous Moving Violations compared to the 20 issued last month.
- The school bus inspection program is based on a NRS requirement, in which each bus is to be inspected a minimum of twice a year. During the month of February, the Northern Command CVSI's performed a total of 95 school bus inspections. 25 school busses were placed out of service.
- A total of 155 trucks were weighed during this month. This was a decrease over January's weight activity of 230 trucks weighed. Although there was a decrease in the number of vehicles weighed, the overweight citation activity increased by 12 or 260% this month as compared to last month. There were a total of 18 citations issued for violations of weight laws during the month of February, compared to five (5) citations for overweight in January.
- In February, 310.0 hours were utilized on weight enforcement on secondary roadways as compared to 338.05 hours in January.
- The Commercial Section will continue with its weighing activities, in order to reduce damage to the roadways and provide a reduction of safety hazardous for the motorist on Nevada highways.
- In February, there was again, a considerable amount of training completed. The Commercial Section Personnel received a total of 493.75 hours of training. During the first week of February, seven (7) commercial personnel traveled to Las Vegas to complete Part "B" of the NAS (North American Standard) training.
- In February, a total of 306.5 work hours were lost due to annual leave, compensation leave and sick leave. Most of the hours used during February were for sick leave. This was due again this month in part to several troopers coming down with a severe case of the flu requiring them to take several days off. Training contributed to a loss of 493.75 work hours.

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES	February 2005	February 2004	% Change	January 2005	% Change
COMMUNICATION CENTER					
Radio Transmissions	87479	71252	+22.8%	95020	-7.9%
CAD incidents	9342	9839	-5.1%	9519	-1.9%
FRONT OFFICE					
Accident Reports Processed	348	218	59.63%	611	-43.04%
Arrest Reports Processed	149	128	16.41%	159	-6.29%
Incident / Officer Reports Processed	11	Unk	Unk	9	22.22%
Office Accident Reports Taken	21	47	-55.32%	48	-56.25%
COURT / WARRANT					
Warrants Received	407	504	-19.25%	470	-13.40%
Warrants Entered	400	1800	-77.77%	396	1.01%
Warrants Cleared	473	1002	-52.79%	836	-43.42%
Warrants Validated	173	334	-48.20%	240	-27.92%
Extradition / Transports	15	31	-51.6%	20	-25%
EVIDENCE					
New Cases Submitted	47	45	4.4%	37	27.0%
New Items Submitted	72	69	4.3%	43	67.4%
Items Disposed	44	58	-24.1%	39	12.8%

COMMUNICATIONS CENTER

- The Northern Command Communication center currently has two vacant Public Safety Dispatcher positions. An open competitive list was obtained from the recruitment and Interviews are scheduled for early March 2005.
- Interviewing for the vacant shift supervisor position will occur in March 2005 as well.
- Total work hours lost decreased by 30.3% since last month primarily due to a drop in Compensatory time and holiday time off. Compensatory time decreased by 59.6%, from 24.75 to 10. Overtime decreased by 39.6% when compared to the same period last year and 21.3% when compared to last month.
 - The decrease is primarily due to the increased use of flexible scheduling and day off trading.
- The radio transmissions in February increased by 22.8% when compared to last February and decreased by 7.9% when compared to last month.
- The CAD incidents decreased by 5.1% when compared to last February and decreased by 1.9% when compared to last month.
- February of 2005 has one calendar day less than the same period last year, accounting for a majority of the reduction in CAD incidents.

FRONT OFFICE

- The front office remains fully staffed. The total work hours lost increased 10% due to the holiday and an administrative assistant being assigned to a weeklong period of training classes.
- Paid overtime was eliminated for this reporting period, and compensatory overtime decreased by 92%. The reduction in overtime, in part, is due to the familiarity of the one-number filing system and by reporting errors caught early by utilizing the CAD Incident Tracking Log.
- The number of accident reports processed remains high at 348 due to continued inclement weather. Office reports have decreased due to less severe storms and troopers investigating the accidents in the field.

COURT WARRANTS

- The staff is working with the two assigned administrative assistants and with the administrative assistant assigned to citations. The citation administrative assistant, assist the section by clearing warrants and answering phones. The citation assistant was responsible for processing 3,050 citations this reporting period.
- Warrants entered remains steady from the previous period with a 1% increase. Validations have decreased as the purging of 1992 and older warrants begins to diminish. The number of warrants cleared decreasing by 43% is also a direct result of the older warrants already being purged.

EVIDENCE

- The evidence facility had a large increase in both the number of evidence cases and items submitted this month compared to January 2005.
- The evidence technician rejuvenated his research to get dispositions on evidence items that are dated. He was successful in emptying an old storage shed and obtaining a new storage shed closer to the Reno office.

PUBLIC INFORMATION

- The month of February provided for 2 weeks of recruitment outside the boundaries of Nevada.
 - The first week of the month was spent in San Diego at the Marine Corp Recruitment Depot. 53 interest cards were filled out and 3 potential NHP cadets completed and passed the written and physical fitness testing.
 - The 2nd week was spent at the University of Utah in Salt Lake City. The job fair at the college produced over 60 interest's cards with 3 students passing the written and physical tests, 2 of those individuals tested for NHP and 1 for Parole and Probation.
- Trooper Allen also attended a media relations class in Las Vegas which provided scenario's for a school shooting and a dirty bomb. The one day class was very informative and also provided on camera time for class and instructor critiques.
- During the month, Troopers Carl Stone and Chuck Allen gave 2 safety presentations to the Carson City street maintenance employees which focused on general traffic safety and some of the new regulation changes regarding commercial vehicles.
 - There were over 100 city employees in attendance and the feedback was very positive from the supervisors and risk management personnel.
- Also during the month was the Special Olympics "tip-a-cop" event was held at the 3 northern Nevada Applebee restaurants.

- Over \$9,000 dollars was raised with the help of DPS employees, Gaming Control and University of Nevada Police personnel. Thank you to all of those employees who volunteered their time in uniform for such a worth while cause.
- There are more events planned with Special Olympics in the near future to include another "tip-a-cop" event at the Claim Jumper restaurant in April.
- Lastly, we are still doing the weekly radio show labeled "Trooper Talk" on AM 1400 every Tuesday at 4:00 pm. The show has become very popular and we have completed 58 episodes to date.

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